

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of an antigen, the antigen being in a combination with aluminium hydroxide, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting the antigen with an immunoglobulin, or fragment thereof, in the context of a solid support and in the presence of a basic buffer, to allow binding of the antigen to the immunoglobulin or fragment thereof;

(ii) adding a blocking agent; and

(iii) detecting the binding of ~~antibody to the antigen~~ to immunoglobulin, wherein steps ~~1, 2 and 3~~ i, ii, and iii are carried out sequentially but not necessarily consecutively.

2. (Currently Amended) The[[A]] method according to claim 1, wherein the antigen is hepatitis B surface antigen.

3. (Currently Amended) The[[A]] method according to claim 1, [[or 2]] wherein step (i) is carried out with agitation.

4. (Currently Amended) The[[A]] method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1 wherein the detection step (iii) is carried out in the presence of 0.2 % BSA.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to any preceding claim~~ for the detection of an antigen, the method comprising the following steps of:

(i) contacting an ~~antibody~~immunoglobulin specific for hepatitis B surface antigen with a ~~test sample to be tested~~, the ~~antibody~~immunoglobulin being bound to a solid support, the contacting being carried out in the presence of a basic buffer, with agitation, to allow binding of the antigen to the ~~antibody~~immunoglobulin, wherein the basic buffer has a pH of 9 or approximately pH 9 is about pH 9;

(ii) adding a blocking agent comprising about 1% BSA ~~or approximately 1% BSA~~; and

(iii) detecting the binding of ~~antibody to the antigen~~ to immunoglobulin in the presence of 0.2% BSA.

6. (Currently Amended) A kit for the detection of an antigen, the antigen being in the presence of aluminium hydroxide, the kit comprising instructions for implementing the method ~~of claims 1-5~~ of claim 1 and at least one component selected from: an ~~antibody~~ immunoglobulin specific for the antigen and a basic buffer.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A kit for the detection of an antigen, the kit comprising instructions for implementing the method of claim 5 and at least one component ~~selected~~ chosen from the group of: an immunoglobulin specific for the antigen and a basic buffer.